

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 100260
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:PWLANDE/MW
APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:PWLANDE
NOTE BY MPI: REENTERED TO CINCPAC
-----040326Z 119810 /63
O 040018Z MAY 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 100260

CINCPAC FOR POLAD - PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR BYROADE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, PK

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO THE SECRETARY

THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO TO THE
SECRETARY WAS DELIVERED TO THE DEPARTMENT ON MAY 3:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF
APRIL 29.

I HAVE ALWAYS ATTACHED THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THE
PAKISTAN-UNITED STATES RELATIONSHIP. IT HAS BENEFITED
BOTH COUNTRIES. I HAVE PUBLICLY EXPRESSED MY FAITH IN THIS
RELATIONSHIP ON MANY OCCASIONS AND DURING THE PAST FIVE
YEARS MY GOVERNMENT HAS STEADILY STRIVEN TO STRENGTHEN IT
FURTHER.

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HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN DISTURBED IN THE RECENT PAST BY THE
ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITH ITS ADVERSE IMPACT ON
PAKISTAN'S STABILITY, ITS LIKELY REPERCUSSIONS ON THE
SECURITY OF THIS REGION, ALREADY UNDER MOUNTING SOVIET
PRESSURE, AND ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. MY REGRET
IS THE GREATER BECAUSE MUCH OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED WAS
ENTIRELY AVOIDABLE. WE WERE FRANKLY SHOCKED WHEN, AS

PAKISTAN'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN GOT UNDER WAY AND DURING ITS AFTERMATH, DISTURBING EVIDENCE BEGAN TO ACCUMULATE OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT ON THE SIDE OF THE OPPOSITION WHICH HAD LAUNCHED A VIOLENT CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO SUBVERT THE CONSTITUTION AND UNDERMINE THE STABILITY OF PAKISTAN. IT WAS FOR THAT REASON THAT I BROACHED THIS SUBJECT WITH AMBASSADOR BYROADE ON NOT LESS THAN THREE OCCASIONS. I MENTIONED TO HIM CONCRETE INSTANCES OF UNITED STATES ROLE IN THIS CONTEXT. AMBASSADOR BYROADE'S EXPLANATIONS DID NOTHING TO REASSURE US.

EVENTUALLY, MATTERS CAME TO SUCH A PASS THAT I WAS LEFT WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE MY PEOPLE INTO CONFIDENCE IN THE COURSE OF MY RECENT SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT.

I WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTION THAT WE DISCUSS OUR CONCERNS PRIVATELY. I WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO RECEIVE YOU IN PAKISTAN FOR THIS PURPOSE AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. IN THE MEANTIME, I WOULD DO WHATEVER IS POSSIBLE TO RESTRAIN PUBLIC REACTION AGAINST FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN PAKISTAN'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT THE MOMENTUM THAT THIS REACTION HAS GATHERED CANNOT BE ABRUPTLY AND IMMEDIATELY ARRESTED.

I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE KIND OF DISCUSSIONS YOU PROPOSE WOULD LEAD TO A RESTORATION OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND UNDERSTANDING AND A RENEWAL OF OUR COMMON AWARENESS OF THE ABIDING VALUE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND THE UNITED STATES. SINCERELY, ZULFIKAR ABI BHUTTO.

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END QUOTE

WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS LETTER IN GENERAL, AND PARTICULARLY ON THE REFERENCE TO THE "THREE OCCASIONS." WE ARE ONLY AWARE OF THE DISCUSSION AT THE FAREWELL DINNER.

VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE100260
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PWLANDE/MW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770155-0820
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770595/aaaaddus.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0c528c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2643211
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO THE SECRETARY THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO TO THE SECRETARY WAS DELIVERED TO THE DEPARTMENT ON MAY 3
TAGS: PFOR, PSDC, US, PK, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (BHUTTO, ZULFIKAR ALI)
To: ISLAMABAD CINCPAC
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbcr//SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0c528c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009